

NEWS FROM

Alabama Student Loan Program—KHEAA

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Financial Aid Tip of the Month, May 2006

State offers several student aid programs

Alabama students headed to college have several state financial aid programs for which they may be eligible.

The Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) administers four programs that can help Alabamians pay for college. They include the Alabama Student Assistance Program Grant, which provides up to \$2,500 to needy undergraduate students attending eligible Alabama colleges. The Alabama Student Grant is a similar program that offers smaller grants for students attending certain private colleges in the state.

The third ACHE program provides educational assistance to the dependent or spouse of a police officer or firefighter killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty in Alabama. It's for undergraduates attending a public Alabama college. The fourth ACHE program provides tuition grants to members of the Alabama National Guard. It provides assistance at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Other programs, offered by Alabama's two-year colleges, include academic, athletic and performing arts scholarships. There's also a scholarship for Alabamians age 60 and older who want to take classes at two-year schools.

Other state agencies also provide help to Alabama residents. The Alabama Department of Education administers the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship, which provides up to \$1,500 per year for four years. It's based on ACT/SAT scores and high school academic record. Byrd Scholarships don't have to be used in Alabama.

The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation offers a scholarship for the dependents of blind parents. It covers the cost of textbooks. And Alabamians who are members of a federally recognized Indian tribe may be eligible for a scholarship from the Alabama Indian Affairs Commission. State aid is also available to children and spouses of veterans through the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs.

The state treasurer's office offers the Alabama Higher Education 529 Fund, which lets families save for college expenses, and the Prepaid Affordable College Tuition (PACT) program, which lets parents and others prepay four years of college tuition.

For more information about student financial aid and college planning, visit www.alstudentaid.com; write the Alabama Student Loan Program, 100 North Union Street, Suite 308, Montgomery, AL 36104-3761; or call 334-265-9720, toll free (800) 721-9720.